

staff; and bringing a new medical laboratory technology program to the Hastings campus.

Dr. Franzen is a credit to Nebraska and to the educational community as a whole. Students and educators alike have benefited from his hard work, and I congratulate him on his decades of hard work.

TRIBUTE ROBERT A. GLEICH

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Robert A. Gleich, Jr., on the occasion of his retirement from his position of Deputy Superintendent, House Office Buildings.

Bob Gleich began his career with the Architect of the Capitol in November 1976 in the AOC's Construction Management division, where he worked on many sizeable projects, including final construction of the Madison Building. His experience in overseeing large-scale construction projects proved helpful as he then transitioned to the A/C Engineering Division, where he was assigned to oversee the construction of the Hart Senate Office Building. Bob's engineering expertise and construction management skills were instrumental in the successful completion of this high profile project, which was finished on time and on budget.

Following a promotion in August 1987 to Assistant Superintendent, House Office Buildings, Bob was named Deputy Superintendent, House Office Buildings, in December 1992, a position which he holds today on the eve of his retirement from public service.

In his role as Deputy Superintendent, Bob has been involved in many initiatives which have transformed the AOC into an organization that is dedicated to completing its mission with a commitment to exceptional performance, and a focus on quality customer service. He played a critical role in developing the first automated work order system in the AOC. He also chaired a group charged with developing a computer aided facility management (CAFM) system for the AOC designed to improve the Architect's facility management data collection.

This system which was implemented in 1999, was enhanced in 2004, and remains a key component in the AOC's successful management of the facilities that comprise the Capitol Hill complex.

Bob continued to build on his accomplishments by streamlining the Congressional office-moves process for the House of Representatives. Through his efforts, the room selection process has been transformed from a labor-intensive process where information and data required manual display, forcing Members and staff to spend an extensive amount of time monitoring the process, to a fully automated process that can be monitored via the Web, reducing Member and staff time by approximately 90 percent. This transformation has made the Congressional office-moves process easier to execute, and has increased the customer satisfaction scores to greater than 95 percent during the last three Congressional move cycles.

Upon his retirement, Bob will be embarking on a new career in the private sector. We wish

Bob our best as he begins this exciting new chapter of his life, and extend our good wishes to him, his wife Petra, and his six children, Aaron, Robbie, Ryan, Dana, Dustin, and Derrick.

HONORING LELAND HUCKE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Leland Hucke of Liberty, Missouri. Leland is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Leland has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Leland has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Leland Hucke for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING LOCAL OLYMPIANS

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in honoring the accomplishments of our U.S. Olympic Athletes.

Javier Molina had a hole in his lung but that didn't stop him from representing his country. Hailing from Norwalk, California Javier—the son of Mexican-American immigrants and part of a boxing legacy that spans both sides of the U.S./Mexico border—became the youngest member of the 2008 U.S. boxing team at 18 years old. His hard work and determination has made everyone in the 38th District of California and the Latino community very proud.

All Olympic athletes work hard to achieve their goals but some athletes also have to fight through injuries. In Beijing Javier suffered from a condition called "subcutaneous emphysema" where air was able to seep out of a small hole in his lung. Although this condition made it hard for Javier to breathe and drained his energy he put up a strong front and boxed so he could represent the United States with dignity. Javier did not bring home a medal but he stayed committed, fought, and made us proud.

I also want to take this opportunity to recognize another one of my constituents, Laura Berg from Sante Fe Springs, California. Laura was a member of the 2008 U.S. Softball team which brought a silver medal home from Beijing.

This was the fourth time that Laura has represented our Nation at the Olympics, winning gold medals in softball at the 2004 Olympics in Sydney, the 2000 Olympics in Athens, and at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. She is the

only four-time Olympian in the history of softball. At the 2006 International Softball Federation's World Championships, she also set a world record by appearing in her fourth World Championship.

Before stepping down in 2007 to train for the Olympics, Laura showed her commitment to helping the next generation by working as an assistant coach at her alma mater, Fresno State.

On behalf of the 38th District of California, we are so proud of all our Olympians.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL WATER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to establish "The National Water Research and Development Initiative," to coordinate national efforts on water research and technology development and to provide a clear path forward to ensure adequate water supplies for generations to come.

Water is essential to everything we do, and there is no substitute for it. Many Americans are unaware how stressed our water supplies have become. This situation will continue to be exacerbated by increases in population and energy demand and shifting weather patterns caused by climate change. In order to meet the water demands of the future, it is essential that we have the tools needed to utilize water resources efficiently and to maintain the quality of our water supplies. Sound water management is essential if we are to meet the water needs of municipalities, industry, agriculture, recreation, and power.

At the turn of the 19th century, U.S. population stood at a little more than 5 million citizens. Our population is now over 300 million with an annual growth rate of one percent. Available surface water supplies have not increased in the United States since the 1990s, and groundwater tables are continuing to decline. It is clear that the U.S. water supply cannot support future populations and economic activity at its current rate of consumption.

In the United States, over 50,000 water utilities withdraw approximately 40 billion gallons per day of water from the nation's resources, to supply water for domestic consumption, industry, and other uses. When severe water shortages occur, the economic effect can be substantial. According to a 2000 report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, eight water shortages from drought or heat waves each resulted in \$1 billion or more in monetary losses over the past 20 years.

An adequate supply of treated water is integral to many industries, including agriculture and food processing, beverages, power generation, paper production, manufacturing, and mineral extraction. Water shortages can negatively affect companies and entire industries and reduce job creation and retention. Current industry trajectories, population growth, and dwindling water supplies all point to increased water shortages. Increased water demand will